

A NEW MECHANITIS (LEPIDOPTERA, NYMPHALIDAE)

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At the time of my revision of the genus *Mechanitis* (JOUR. N. Y. ENT. SOC., xxxii, 145, 1924) there was a single female in the U. S. National Museum which I was unable to place in any species, but which appeared either distinct or an extreme form of *mantineus*, lacking all the characters usually considered diagnostic of that species. Since then four additional specimens have come my way, including both sexes, and the form appears entirely constant and worthy of a name. As it flies with *M. polymnia* without intermixing it seems worth considering a species, though it may yet turn out to be an extreme form of *mantineus*, and there are no genitalic differences from the other members of the *polymnia* group.

***Mechanitis limnaea*, new species.**

Elements of pattern as in *M. polymnia*, *doryssus* and *franis*. Ground solidly tawny out to end of cell, the spot in the outer part of the cell broadly connected to the base, and either solidly tawny above, or at most with a very few yellow scales, yellow beneath. Postmedial fascia as in *doryssus* and *eurydice*, taking the form of a zigzag band, with the spot in cell M_1 longitudinal and the lower half of the one in cell M_2 transverse; band separated from tawny base by heavy black markings, except very shortly just below the cell, and even there separated by the black vein, and by the abrupt and striking change in color. Black discal bar continuous, though sometimes nearly interrupted; the portion at lower angle of cell rather larger than the upper portion. Spot in outer third of cell not large, absent in one female; spot in base of cell Cu_1 also small, the postmedial spot in that cell broadly connected with the marginal black to form a thick "comma-mark," which usually fills the whole upper half of the cell submarginally, or leaves only a minute yellow spot above it, unlike the regional specimens of the *polymnia* group. Apex black, without tawny shading above or below, with a diffuse crescentic subterminal yellow band. Marginal spots white, conspicuous below, less frequently well developed above than in *M. franis*. Hind wing tawny, with the usual yellow base of costa below, but otherwise without yellow sealing; border more nearly even than

in the polymnia group, though comparable with some specimens of *doryssus*, with two teeth on its inner border to an interspace, which in some specimens are nearly equal, and never are as strikingly unequal as in those specimens of *polymnia* which have them. Postmedial band strong and continuous, only a little widened at its middle; the tawny between it and the border somewhat narrower, and also only a little widened at its middle.

Expanse about 55 mm.

The species is smaller than *polymnia*, *doryssus* and *eurydice* forms, though not smaller than *franis* and *mantineus*. The postmedial yellow band is broader than in other specimens with an equal amount of black, the yellow area in cell M_1 being three times as long as wide; and this, with the abrupt change from tawny to yellow with the whole cell tawny, will distinguish it from all other forms of the group, I believe. There is a remarkable resemblance to "*Melinæa*" *tecta* Haensch (Seitz Macr. World, pl. 33, fig. d4, as *mnasias*), which I believe is a *Ceratinia*; but it differs in nearly or completely lacking the admarginal spots, and having a subapical yellow crescent; and also in the arrangement of the black spots in the cell and cell Cu_1 , which in *tecta* are arranged as is usual in *Ceratinia*. There is less resemblance to *M. mnasias* Hew., which is also obviously a *Ceratinia*.

St. Laurent, R. Maroni, French Guiana, type and paratypes received through Staudinger and Bang-Haas, in Cornell University collection; and Moengo, R. Cottica, Surinam, May 23, 1927, paratype, also in Cornell University collection. There is also a female paratype in the U. S. National Museum. I caught the Moengo specimen on a small bauxite island in the enormous coastal swamp of the Guianas but have no data on the other specimens; the two localities are only about 30 miles apart.